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# Home Appliance *NewsLine*

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## WEAK APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS START OFF NEW YEAR

CHICAGO -- The major home appliance industry shipped over 3.3 million units in January, the lowest level for the month since 1983, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Monthly appliance shipments declined 6.2 percent compared to one year ago, and only two product categories showed increases.

* **Dehumidifier** shipments, spurred by widespread rains and humid conditions, increased 6.1 percent to 31,400 units, the second-highest January level for the product since 1985.
* **Microwave oven** shipments increased 2.5 percent to 697,500 units. In spite of the increase, January shipments of the product were at the lowest level for the month since 1984.

While total January shipments of gas ranges declined, built-ins and surface cooking units increased 2.7 percent and 20.7 percent respectively, indicating some resurgence in kitchen remodeling and upscale new home building. Nearly 8,000 built-ins and 23,300 surface cooking units were shipped in January.

According to the latest industry forecast, 1992 appliance shipments are expected to surpass 44.7 million units.

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**MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS**
January, 1992

| | JANUARY 1992 | JANUARY 1991 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**** | **3,344.3** | **3,566.7** | **-6.2%** |
| **COOKING - TOTAL** | **1,125.1** | **1,130.1** | **-0.4%** |
| ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL | 253.1 | 268.1 | -5.6% |
| Free Standing | 176.7 | 184.4 | -4.2% |
| Built-In | 44.2 | 49.6 | -10.9% |
| Surface Cooking Units | 32.2 | 34.1 | -5.6% |
| GAS RANGES - TOTAL | 181.4 | 190.4 | -4.7% |
| Free Standing | 150.4 | 163.5 | -8.0% |
| Built-In | 7.7 | 7.5 | 2.7% |
| Surface Cooking Units | 23.3 | 19.3 | 20.7% |
| MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES*** | 697.5 | 680.2 | 2.5% |
| **HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL** | **898.4** | **973.1** | **-7.7%** |
| AUTOMATIC WASHERS | 512.4 | 555.1 | -7.7% |
| DRYERS - TOTAL | 386.1 | 417.9 | -7.6% |
| Electric | 291.9 | 317.7 | -8.1% |
| Gas | 94.2 | 100.3 | -6.1% |
| **KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL** | **630.6** | **696.8** | **-9.5%** |
| DISPOSERS | 349.2 | 361.9 | -3.5% |
| DISHWASHERS - TOTAL | 272.3 | 321.9 | -15.4% |
| Built-In | 255.7 | 298.7 | -14.4% |
| Portable | 16.6 | 23.2 | -28.4% |
| COMPACTORS | 9.0 | 13.0 | -30.8% |
| **FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL** | **556.1** | **578.0** | **-3.8%** |
| REFRIGERATORS | 466.1 | 483.2 | -3.5% |
| FREEZERS - TOTAL | 89.9 | 94.8 | -5.2% |
| Chest | 47.8 | 51.5 | -7.2% |
| Upright | 42.1 | 43.3 | -2.8% |
| **HOME COMFORT - TOTAL** | **134.2** | **188.8** | **-28.9%** |
| ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS | 102.8 | 159.2 | -35.4% |
| DEHUMIDIFIERS | 31.4 | 29.6 | 6.1% |

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments.
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.